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(71) Applicant: **KONICA CORPORATION**
Tokyo (JP)

(72) Inventor: **Takeda, Mayumi**
Hachioji-si,
Tokyo, 192-8505 (JP)

(74) Representative: **Henkel, Feiler & Hänzel**
Möhlstrasse 37
81675 München (DE)

(54) **Image processing apparatus, image processing method and program**

(57) There is described an image processing apparatus for displaying images. The apparatus includes an extracting section to extract related information, a grouping section to group the images into image groups, a display controlling section to control the display device so as to display the images for every image group, a sorting section to sort images included in each of the image groups, based on the related information, and an inputting section to input grouping information and/or sorting information. The display controlling section con-

trols the display device so as to display the images, sorted by the sorting section, for every image group. Further, the inputting section inputs display-order changing information for changing a display-order of the images for every image group, and then, the display controlling section changes the display-order of the images for every image group to a new display-order based on the display-order changing information.

EP 1 369 792 A3



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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention EP 03 01 2538 shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	<p>BEDERSON B B: "PhotoMesa: a zoomable image browser using quantum treemaps and bubblemaps"</p> <p>01UIST. PROCEEDINGS OF THE 14TH ANNUAL ACM SYMPOSIUM ON USER INTERFACE SOFTWARE AND TECHNOLOGY ACM NEW YORK, NY, USA, 2001, pages 71-80, XP002369399</p> <p>ISBN: 1-58113-438-X</p> <p>* page 72, left-hand column, paragraph 3 *</p> <p>* page 72, right-hand column, paragraph 2-5 *</p> <p>* page 73, left-hand column, paragraph 6 - right-hand column, paragraph 2 *</p> <p>* page 74, left-hand column, paragraph 2-4 *</p> <p>* page 79, right-hand column, paragraph 2 *</p> <p>* figures 1,2 *</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/--</p>	1-10, 13-22, 25-34	G06F17/30
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			G06F
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for these claims.</p> <p>Claims searched completely :</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched :</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">see sheet C</p>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		23 February 2006	Denoual, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		<p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention</p> <p>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</p> <p>D : document cited in the application</p> <p>L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>.....</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>	
<p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone</p> <p>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</p> <p>A : technological background</p> <p>O : non-written disclosure</p> <p>P : intermediate document</p>			

3
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	MILLS T J ET AL: "SHOEBOX: A DIGITAL PHOTO MANAGEMENT SYSTEM" AT&T TECHNICAL REPORT, 2000, pages 1-8, XP001157753 * page 2, left-hand column, paragraph 3 - right-hand column * * figures 1-3 *	1-10, 13-22, 25-34	
X	----- KUCHINSKY A ET AL: "FOTOFIL: A CONSUMER MULTIMEDIA ORGANIZATION AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM" CHI '99 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS HUMAN FACTORS IN COMPUTING SYSTEMS. PITTSBURGH, PA, MAY 15 - 20, 1999, CHI CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS. HUMAN FACTORS IN COMPUTING SYSTEMS, NEW YORK, NY : ACM, US, 15 May 1999 (1999-05-15), pages 496-503, XP000894256 ISBN: 0-201-48559-1 * page 498, left-hand column, lines 1-4 * * page 499, right-hand column, paragraph 3 - page 500, right-hand column, paragraph 1 * * page 201, right-hand column, paragraph 2 - page 502, left-hand column, paragraph 1 * * figures 1,2,5,6 *	1-10, 13-22, 25-34	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
X	----- SHNEIDERMAN B. ET AL.: "A photo history of SIGCHI: evolution of design from personal to public" INTERACTIONS, vol. 9, no. 3, May 2002 (2002-05), pages 17-23, XP002369400 ISSN: 1072-5520 PhotoFinder * pages 19-20 * * figures 1,2 *	1-10, 13-22, 25-34	
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	HYUNMO KANG ET AL: "Visualization methods for personal photo collections: browsing and searching in the PhotoFinder" MULTIMEDIA AND EXPO, 2000. ICME 2000. 2000 IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEW YORK, NY, USA 30 JULY-2 AUG. 2000, PISCATAWAY, NJ, USA, IEEE, US, vol. 3, 30 July 2000 (2000-07-30), pages 1539-1542, XP010512799 ISBN: 0-7803-6536-4 * page 1541, right-hand column, paragraphs 2,3 * * figure 4 *	1-10, 13-22, 25-34	
A	BRANSCOMBE M: "Getting to know XP Multimedia" PC ANSWERS, May 2002 (2002-05), XP002330622 Cover Story * page 2, paragraph 2 * -----	7-9, 19-21, 31-33	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)



Claim(s) not searched:
11,12,23,24,35,36

Reason for the limitation of the search:

The scope of claims 11, 12, 23, 24, 35 and 36 could neither be determined, nor linked to any particular embodiments in the description. Consequently, no meaningful search was possible for claims 11,12,23,24,35,36 (Rule 45 EPC).